What is claimed is:

1.   A method for reporting the context of an alert condition, comprising:

reporting an alert condition associated with a subject system object;

5   analyzing one or more system objects associated with the alert condition to obtain context data;

generating a context message based on the context data; and

outputting the context message.

10   2.   The method of claim 1, further including receiving a request to report the context of the alert condition.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the analyzing includes determining properties of the subject system object.

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4.   The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing includes determining a physical location of a component represented by the subject system object.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing includes determining a logical 20   relationship of a component represented by the subject system object to at least one other component.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing includes determining a traffic load associated with the subject system object.

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7.   The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing includes identifying one or more system objects, each identified system object representing a components that is dependent on a component represented by the subject system object.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein generating includes replacing quantifiable context data with a qualitative identifier.

9. A system for reporting the context of an alert condition, comprising:

5   means for reporting an alert condition associated with a subject system object;

means for analyzing one or more system objects associated with the alert condition to obtain context data;

means for generating a context message based on the context data; and

means for outputting the context message.

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10. A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for reporting the context of an alert condition, including:

computer readable instructions for reporting an alert condition associated with a subject system object;

15   computer readable instructions for analyzing one or more system objects associated with the alert condition to obtain context data;

computer readable instructions for generating a context message based on the context data; and

computer readable instructions for outputting the context message.